

Rules for the 2016 Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry

1. ELIGIBILITY. Only publishers may submit entries. The award is made to the author (or authors in the event that the prize is split). Books submitted for the Most Distinguished Book of Poetry must have been published in 2014 or 2015. Authors must be living U.S. citizens. Authors' first poetry books or books composed of new work will qualify; collected and selected works will qualify **only** if they include at least thirty new poems previously unpublished in book form. To be considered for the Bobbitt Prize a book is defined as a collection of printed leaves that have been folded, secured by adhesive along the binding edge (perfect binding; no saddle-stitched or stapled binding), and bound; it must be published in a standard edition of not fewer than 1,000 copies.

The Library of Congress does not require that books submitted to it for consideration for the Bobbitt Prize forego other competitions; thus, Bobbitt submissions may be, from the Library's point of view, entered elsewhere for any other prizes.

2. SUBMISSION. Publishers are urged to be selective in their nominations. Send **four copies** of each nominated book to: Bobbitt Prize, Poetry and Literature Center, The Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4861. Books will not be returned.

Include for each title submitted:

- 1) the completed entry form;
- 2) a postage-paid postcard with which the Library will acknowledge receipt;
- 3) a note, if the submission is for lifetime achievement in poetry.

Note: The Library of Congress no longer suggests a \$50 contribution to the Library of Congress—Poetry Fund.

The package must be postmarked no later than **January 1, 2017**.

3. SELECTION. The three-member 2016 jury will make its nomination to the Librarian of Congress in mid-winter 2017. The Library will announce the winner(s) of the prize to major newspapers and to major literary magazines. On the selected date to follow, the Librarian of Congress will present the prize to the author(s) at a ceremony, to be followed by a public reading by the author(s) from the winning book and/or a selection of poems reflecting a lifetime achievement in poetry.